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CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — SENATE

19439

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
Washington, D.C., September 14, 1961.
Hon. MIKE MANSFIELD,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MANSFIELD: This letter is in response to your request that we give further consideration to the need for a northern Great Plains regional center for soil and water conservation research proposed for location at Sidney, Mont.

Senate Document No. 59, 86th Congress, 1st session, the working group report on facility needs for soil and water conservation research, recommends Sidney, Mont., as a suitable location for the establishment of a regional center for research on problems of moisture conservation, and water and wind erosion. Moisture availability is always a limiting factor in the northern Great Plains, both for dryland farming and range forage production. This year's disastrous drought has made research to develop more effective methods for productive use of the limited moisture available for crop or forage production urgent.

Dryland farming in the area has been limited by climate, chiefly to wheat fallow. Recently, safflower, an oil seed crop, has come into use in the area on lands diverted from wheat production. Production of safflower has aggravated erosion problems.

We are assured by many years' experience of excellent cooperation at Sidney with the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station through its Eastern Branch Experiment Station. We have been informally offered a site for the headquarters building of the proposed regional center on the lands of the branch experiment station. Close association and cooperation with the personnel of the Montana Branch Experiment Station would greatly facilitate research at the proposed center.

The work of the proposed regional research center would be expedited by use of a tract of land which would be made available near Culbertson by a group of soil conservation districts for field studies. Other areas could be obtained for use as needed.

The proposed northern Great Plains regional center would directly serve eastern Montana and adjacent areas of the Dakotas and Wyoming. Results of research on moisture conservation would be applicable generally on wheat-fallow and hard range lands in other areas.

Sincerely yours,
ORVILLE L. FREEMAN,
Secretary.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1961.

Hon. ORVILLE FREEMAN,
Secretary, Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. SECRETARY: Senator METCALF and I are today sending the attached letter to the President and we will appreciate your continued interest in the proposed Soil and Water Research Center at Sidney, Mont.

With best personal wishes, I am,
Sincerely yours,

MIKE MANSFIELD.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1961.

Hon. DAVID E. BELL,
Director, Bureau of the Budget,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. BELL: Senator METCALF and I are today sending the attached letter to the President and we would appreciate your cooperation in getting this project started. As you know, the Department of Agriculture's program for the current fiscal year includes two similar facilities in Alabama and Missouri.

With best personal wishes, I am,
Sincerely yours,

MIKE MANSFIELD.

FACTS FAVORING THE LOCATION OF A NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION RESEARCH CENTER AT SIDNEY, MONT.

1. A study committee of Federal and State scientists recommended the establishment of a soil and water conservation research center in the general area of eastern Montana and the western Dakotas. Sidney is the most central location available to serve the area in question.

2. The study committee also recommended that the proposed Soil and Water Conservation Research Center should be associated with a land-grant college of agriculture. There is no land-grant college campus situated in the immediate area to be served but an extension of the Montana State College campus is available in the form of the eastern branch of the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station. The recommended land-grant college affiliation can be achieved through this relationship. Furthermore, a site for the headquarters building of the research center can be provided on the lands of the branch experiment station.

3. The proposed location at Sidney can reach out easily to the important soil and water situations characteristic of the northern Great Plains. Important problem situations are present in the area on dry croplands, irrigated lands, and rangelands. Most important, perhaps, is the fact that the Sidney location is near the dividing line between the glaciated and the unglaciated soils of the northern Great Plains and the problems of both of these important soil situations can be studied readily from Sidney.

4. The farm and ranch people of northeastern Montana have a long record of support for soil and water conservation research, including the expenditure of locally provided funds for the support of soil and water research carried on cooperatively with the Agricultural Research Service and earlier with the Soil Conservation Service over a period of more than 20 years. The continuing nature of this local support is unique and should be encouraged and supplemented. It is doubtful if this degree of local support and leadership in the field of soil and water conservation research can be duplicated at any other place in the Nation.

5. The local supporters of soil and water conservation research have extended themselves to the limit to provide permanence for such a research effort in the area. For approximately 20 years, the soil conservation districts in the area leased a farm which was made available without charge as a site for soil and water conservation research. These same soil conservation districts purchased a farm of 80 acres near Culbertson on April 1, 1958. This tract of land is available without charge as a site for soil and water conservation research. The farm now owned by the soil conservation districts cost \$7,200. It is operated through a group of citizens organized as the Northeast Montana Research Committee.

6. The area to be served by the proposed Soil and Water Conservation Research Center at Sidney is facing major adjustments in its agriculture. One important phase of adjustment is already underway with the development of safflower production on lands diverted from wheat production in northeastern Montana and northwestern North Dakota. Safflower production has developed in the area to the extent that a processing plant was opened at Culbertson during 1959. This new crop holds great promise for increasing the agricultural income of the area but has brought with it several problems requiring additional research. Among them is the problem of erosion of the land after the safflower crop has been harvested. Soil and water research related to this problem will aid in the adjusting of the agriculture of the area away from grain crops which are now in surplus.

7. The city of Sidney is among the most pleasant and progressive in the Northern Great Plains area. It is located in the Yellowstone River Valley in a setting of productive irrigated agriculture. The valley is bordered by dry crop and range lands. Sidney is a growing city with modern facilities. It has an outstanding school system and construction will begin on a new high school this spring. A new hotel completed within the past 10 years is among the finest in Montana. Sidney is served by railroad, bus line, and Frontier Airlines.

INCOME TAX TREATMENT OF CERTAIN LOSSES SUSTAINED IN CONVERTING FROM STREET RAILWAY TO BUS OPERATIONS

MR. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, I understand that the bill to which I referred a moment ago is at the desk. If it is, I move that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the bill.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will state the bill by title for the information of the Senate.

THE LEGISLATIVE CLERK. A bill (H.R. 8652), relating to the income tax treatment of certain losses sustained in converting from street railway to bus operations.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion of the Senator from Montana.

The motion was agreed to; and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

MR. HUMPHREY. Mr. President, the bill was passed unanimously by the House, and it was reported favorably by the Committee on Finance. It relates to a public utility; therefore, there can be no private gain involved. It will affect only the rate structure, to the interest of the consumer. I am hopeful that the Senate may see fit to pass the bill.

MR. PROXIMIRE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

MR. HUMPHREY. I yield.

MR. PROXIMIRE. I should like to ask the Senator from Minnesota whether this will affect the Treasury of the United States in any way. Will it reduce the revenue of the Treasury?

MR. HUMPHREY. Not in the long run.

MR. PROXIMIRE. Not in the long run?

MR. HUMPHREY. No.

MR. PROXIMIRE. Is the bill printed?

MR. HUMPHREY. Yes, it is printed. It was reported favorably to the Senate by the Committee on Finance. It was reported favorably to the Senate a year ago, but the Senate did not act on it because we did not have time to do so. It had been passed by the House a year ago. It had full hearings in both the Senate and the House.

MR. PROXIMIRE. No objection was raised in the Committee on Finance, and it was passed unanimously by the House?

MR. HUMPHREY. Yes.

THE ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on the third reading of the bill.

The bill (H.R. 5751) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

